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### Explore the joys of reading together!

November 2024

Welcome to Imagination Library RVA's monthly e-newsletter. Below, you will find helpful information designed to keep you informed and connected to our community's ongoing work to promote literacy. We are thrilled to have you as part of our growing family of readers! You can also visit us at [www.ImaginationLibraryRVA.org](http://www.ImaginationLibraryRVA.org).

### Imagination Library RVA News



On October 28th, Read to Them staff member, Sara Hudson, joined Better2gether and Richmond Hope Therapy to share the dramatic ways that reading aloud impacts children. Hudson outlined the many benefits of reading aloud and why any adult – no matter their read aloud experience – is the perfect resource to read aloud to children. Hudson went on to share how reading aloud enhances literacy, fosters emotional connection, and supports children in becoming better students and friends. Kimberly Fehrs, Project Manager for Imagination Library RVA, was also present to share information about ILRVA with families and to register children in the program. The event was held at the Henrico County Public Library - Libbie Mill. We cannot thank Better2gether and Richmond Hope Therapy enough for partnering with us, and look forward to sharing further discussions in the near future.

### Don't Say "No!" to Graphic Novels

Your November 2024 reading tip



Reluctant readers are often put-off by the amount of words on a page – and families may feel tempted to push them outside of their comfort level by immediately starting with chapter books. Doing this greatly increases the odds that your child will develop a negative attitude towards reading. If your little reluctant reader shows interest in graphic novels, that's just fine! Graphic novels are actually a great transition into chapter books. We are currently in a golden age of graphic novels, and there is no shortage in high quality, diverse stories waiting to be discovered.

### Upcoming Community Partner Events

**November 8**

- Minds of All Kinds: A Sensory-friendly Evening at the Science Museum, Science Museum of Virginia, 4:00 - 8:00pm, free with registration

**November 15**

- Sensory Friendly Night – Downtown, Children's Museum of Richmond - Downtown, 5:00 - 7:00pm, free with registration

Have a community event you would like us to include? [Email us!](#)

For even more community events for the whole family, be sure to pick up a free copy of [Richmond Family Magazine](#), available at over 850 spots all over RVA, including [these locations](#).

## Seymour Moves!

**Movement enhances learning and promotes brain growth!**

Walk *the Green* with us every Tuesday morning from 10 AM to 10:30 AM.

Then come to the Children's Museum and learn through play!

**Children's Museum OF RICHMOND**

### Bon Secours Health Assessment Survey



Our 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment survey is now live, and we would love to hear from you! This survey helps Bon Secours hear from each of you about the biggest health needs you and your family are facing. We will use your feedback to identify gaps in our services and to improve public health. The survey takes about 6-7 minutes to complete.

Por favor, ¡comparta su opinión con Bon Secours! Esta encuesta en línea está disponible en inglés y español - elija su idioma preferido en la esquina superior derecha.

Here is the link to take the survey in English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BSRCHNA25>  
Thank you for helping us make our community healthier!

Here is the link to take the survey in Spanish: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BSRCHNA25?lang=es>  
Gracias por ayudarnos a que nuestra comunidad sea más sana.

### We Love Our Local Libraries!

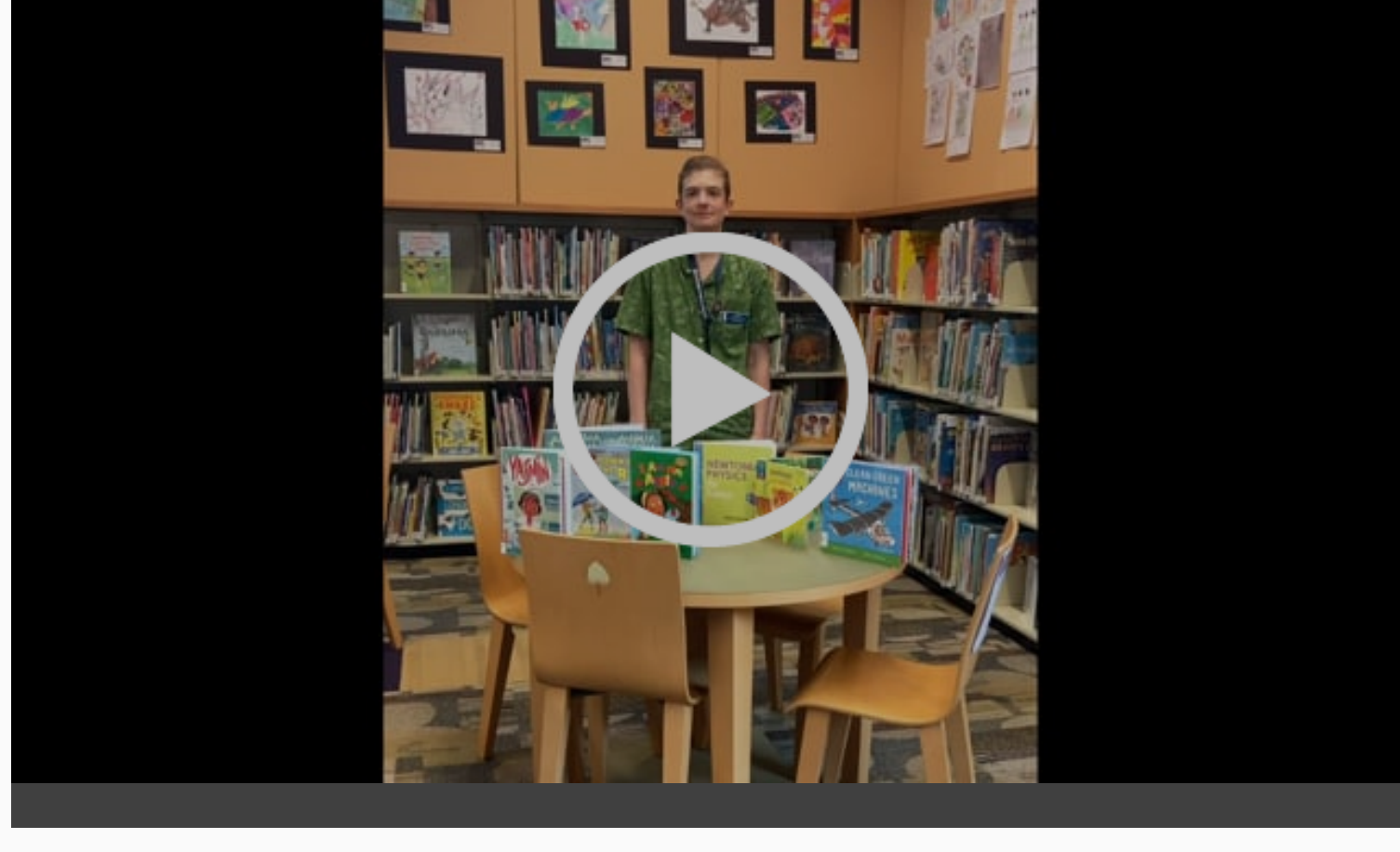
Is your reader eager to get their hands on more books? Visit your local library! Sign up for a library card to keep the reading momentum!

**STEAM On Over to the Library!**  
Science Technology Engineering Art Math = STEAM, and lots of hand's on learning at your local library.

Richmond Public Library has STEAM programming for children of all ages and their families. From creating biomes to making fossils to building with Legos, the Youth Services staff is ready with all the supplies and expertise.

To find STEAM programming, go to the Library's [Event Calendar](#) and look under Category for Science & Technology/STEAM. There you'll find programs for everyone in your family, and all the programs are free.

Here's Rachel from the Ginter Park branch to tell you more about STEAM programming and some fun STEAM-focused books.



Here are some of Rachel's favorite STEAM books for all ages of creators:

- Newtonian Physics for Babies* by Chris Ferrie
- Zoology for Babies* by Jonathan Litton
- Clean Green Machines* by Tony Mitton
- El último malvavisco; The Last Marshmallow* by Grace Lin
- Agatha May and the Angler Fish* by Nora Morrison and Jessie Ann Foley
- Down Comes the Rain* by Franklyn Branley
- The Moon's Time to Shine* by Scott Emmons
- ¡Essie! ¿Otraves? Again, Essie?* by Jenny Lacika
- I Am an Apple* by Jean Marzollo
- Roberta Bondar: Space Explorer* by Sarah Howden
- Yasmin the Scientist* by Saadia Faruqi
- Awesome Science Experiments for Kids* by Crystal Chatterton

### Dive Deeper with Your Child This Month!

Your November 2024 "Focus on the Basics" Tip



#### Expand on What They Say

As you read, your child may have questions – about the characters, the illustrations, or even the author and illustrator. Try to expand on what they say. This could be an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary; if they ask about a flower, for example, describe other flowers for them. ("That rose is so pretty. The daisies in the park are pretty, too!") You could also ask them follow-up questions to keep them engaged with your book.

Visit this principle from the Basics [here](#)

To learn more about how you can Talk, Sing, Point, click [here](#).

Early childhood organizations all around the City of Richmond have joined The Basics movement, a strategy for whole communities to support vibrant learning and brain development among infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Fun, simple, and powerful, starting at birth, The Basics are five science-based parenting and caregiving principles that support social, emotional, and cognitive development. Each month Read to Them will highlight tips and strategies that will assist you in creating a sturdy foundation for school readiness for our youngest citizens. Visit [theBasicsVirginia.org](http://theBasicsVirginia.org) for more information.

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### Current Number of RVA Readers...

**Celebrating 3,725 Sign-ups!**

Sign up your child ages 0-5 living in the City of Richmond for FREE BOOKS through the mail today!



As Dolly says, "You can never get enough books into enough children!"

Brought to you by



[readtothem.org](http://readtothem.org)



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